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29 July 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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North - South Vietnam: A substantial reinforcement of Communist troop strength in the northernmost provinces of South Vietnam has apparently been under way during recent months.

Early this year, Viet Cong forces in the Republic of Vietnam's 1st Corps zone were estimated at 800 men, including one battalion. US military authorities in Saigon now believe this force has at least doubled in strength.

Some of the new personnel appear to be native North Vietnamese, recently infiltrated from North Vietnam. Two Communist prisoners asserted that they recently infiltrated South Vietnam in units of company and battalion size. They said that the personnel in these units were drawn from the regular North Vietnamese Army (PAVN). According to one of the prisoners, three additional large-size PAVN groups were training in North Vietnam and were scheduled for infiltration.

The Communist build-up in this area apparently began early this year, about the time that Hanoi propaganda began to charge that Saigon was planning military operations in southern Laos. The vital Communist infiltration routes run through this area.

During recent weeks, an upsurge in Viet Cong military action has taken place in the 1st Corps zone. By seizing the military initiative there, the Communists may have hoped to counter South Vietnamese operations into Laos, and disrupt government pacification activities.

In the view of General Westmoreland (COMUSMACV), this build-up in the northern provinces does not "portend a threat of overt Communist introduction of regular military forces from outside the republic of Vietnam."

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DAILY BRIEF

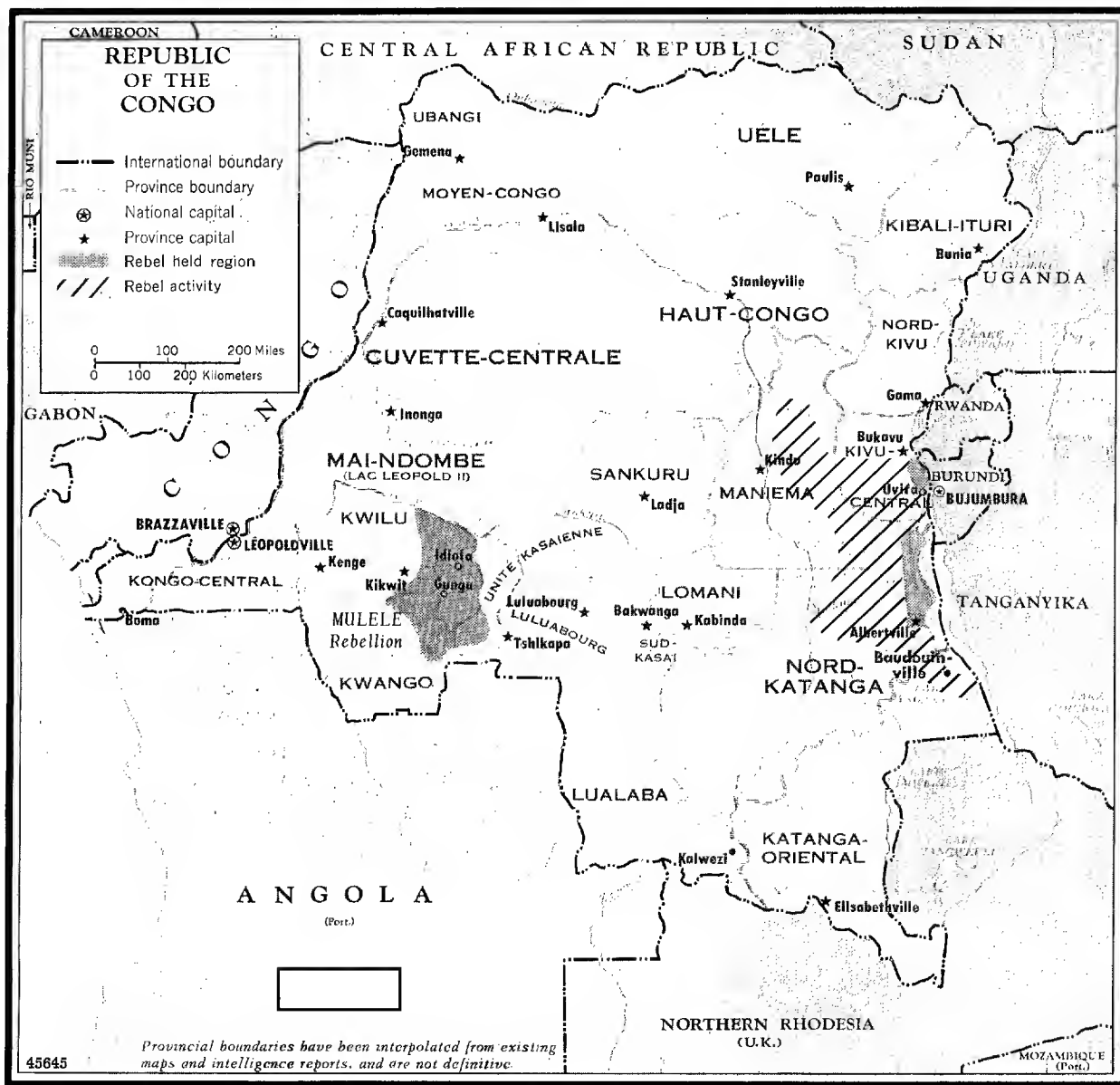
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*Congo: The government military position in the Congo appears to be worsening.

New violence has broken out in Mai-Ndombe province in the western Congo. At least two towns there have been attacked recently by rebels.

In Katanga, Congo army troops were reported fleeing Kongolo and a government offensive against Baudouinville has apparently bogged down.

Meanwhile, small bands of rebels apparently are advancing toward Stanleyville from the south. The commander of the Stanleyville garrison has sent two companies to meet the insurgents. Previous indications have been that neither of these units is reliable. The attitude of the Stanleyville population toward the government is not clear. Although Premier Tshombé received an enthusiastic reception when he toured the city last week end, the city is surrounded by a variety of dissident groups who appear eager to overturn the present regime.

A small number of European mercenaries reportedly has arrived. These personnel are apparently hired to lead the several thousand former gendarmes who have been recruited by Minister of Interior Munongo. European leadership should improve the capabilities of these government forces for containing the rebels.

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DAILY BRIEF

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*British Guiana: Despite the ending of the sugar workers' strike, racial strife is continuing.

Jagan's People's Progressive Party (PPP) called off the strike on 25 July because of its union's failure to displace the union now recognized by the sugar producers. The PPP has falsely claimed agreement with the producers on back-to-work terms and further controversy is likely on this issue.

The police have continued to report sporadic attacks on East Indians and Negroes since the strike was called off. Four persons were killed and 19 were injured in an explosion near Georgetown on 26 July.

The PPP appears to be still committed to violence to try to prevent the fall elections. Jagan and other cabinet ministers continue to make statements designed to aggravate racial antagonism and keep the colony in turmoil. Jagan has also publicly deplored the governor's promise of amnesty to all who turned in illegal firearms by 27 July, calling it a plot to leave the rural people defenseless.

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NOTE

Argentina: Argentine police believe they have uncovered new evidence of a terrorist organization of Castro-Communist orientation, possibly connected with the guerrilla training camps discovered last March. Investigation of an explosion in an apartment house in Buenos Aires on 21 July revealed a small cache of arms, communications equipment, Communist books, and maps of six northwestern provinces. One of the nine killed in the explosion has been linked to guerrilla elements in one of these provinces.

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DAILY BRIEF

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- The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
- The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
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- The Under Secretary of the Treasury

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